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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,189	09/27/2004	Masahiro Arioka	Q83676	5191
23373 7590 12/20/2007 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER VORTMAN, ANATOLY	
			ART UNIT 2835	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/20/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/509,189	Applicant(s) ARIOKA, MASAHIRO	
	Examiner Anatoly Vortman	Art Unit 2835	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Reply Under 37 CFR 1.111***

1. The submission of the reply filed on 11/16/07 is acknowledged. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in the instant application. The Office action follows:

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: "the bar bushing" lacks antecedent basis in line 5 of the claim and should be replaced with "a bus bar bushing". Further, the "spacer" should be used instead of "space" in line 6 of the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 9, and 10, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP/2000-228,806 to Hiramoto et al (Hiramoto) (of record).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Hiramoto disclosed (Fig. 1, 2) a gas-insulated switchgear in which main circuit equipments are accommodated within a tank hermetically filled with an electrically insulating gas, comprising; at least one switchgear module in which a disconnecter (4) with a grounding switch (3a) and an electrically insulating frame (7A, 17A) supporting an interrupter (4, 5) including a vacuum switch tube (5c) are disposed in the tank in a vertically stacked relationship; in which a movable element (4j) of said disconnecter (4) is rotatably supported at one distal end solely by said insulating frame (7A, 17A) and in which said disconnecter (4) and a movable rod of said vacuum switch tube (5c) are electrically connected between to each other (inherently, said movable element (4j) is electrically connected to the movable rod of the vacuum switch (5) in order to complete the circuit between the power source bus work (13E) and outgoing feeders (12)).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Hiramoto disclosed (Fig. 6) a plurality of the switchgear modules, each having a tank accommodating the disconnecter (4), the interrupter (5), grounding switches (18a, b) and the vacuum valve (5c), the adjacent tanks are connected to each other via a spacer (1t) hermetically connecting said tanks to define a circuit.

Regarding claims 9 and 10, Hiramoto disclosed at least one said switchgear module, said insulating frame has a lightning arrester (SA) accommodated therein (Fig. 7), and wherein a module in which a grounding switch (3b) or a disconnecter (4) with a grounding switch (3a) is accommodated is disposed above or below the insulating frame (7A, 17A) (Fig. 1).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 5-8 and 11-14 are allowed.

Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

regarding claims 5-8 and 11-15, claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 15, each recites: "said tank is provided, at a front face thereof, with an opening portion that is hermetically closed by a mounting plate for selectively mounting thereon the interrupter and the disconnecter with the grounding switch and, at the rear face thereof, with an opening portion for mounting therein a bus bar bushing and a cable connecting bushing, and, at the upper and the lower portions, with [...] openings for selectively mounting thereto a spacer for hermetically connecting the tanks". The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of the respective claims, are believed to render the aforementioned claims allowable over the art of record.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

*Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anatoly Vortman whose telephone number is 571-272-2047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, between 10:00 am and 8:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on 571-272-3740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

Art Unit: 2835

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anatoly Vortman/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2835

AV